

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 19, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

We write to reaffirm our strong support of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation's (MassDOT) and the United States Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) joint application for funding through the Bridge Investment Program (BIP). With the Federal Highway Administration's award of the \$372 million Mega grant in December 2023¹ and the inclusion of \$350 million in federal funds through the *Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act* for Fiscal Year 2024,² the BIP grant is the final remaining piece of the funding puzzle to push forward the phased replacement of the aging Bourne and Sagamore Bridges, which cross the Cape Cod Canal and connect Cape Cod with the rest of Massachusetts and New England.

The partnership between MassDOT and USACE to replace the Sagamore and Bourne Bridges will deliver immense social, economic, public safety, and environmental benefits for a nationally significant and iconic region. It will also resolve an outstanding federal responsibility for the maintenance and safety of the Cape Cod Bridges. The bridges are vital assets for the Cape Cod economy and surrounding communities, as well as essential routes for general transportation, tourism, and emergency evacuations. Built in 1933 and owned by the federal government,³ the Bourne and the Sagamore Bridges are the sole gateway to Cape Cod for over 35 million vehicles annually, serving as the main access point for more than 260,000 residents and over 5 million visitors.⁴ However, at more than 90 years old, the bridges are suffering from structural

¹ Cape Cod Commission, "Cape Cod Bridges Program receives significant federal funding," December 21, 2023, <https://www.capecodcommission.org/about-us/newsroom/cape-cod-bridges-program-receives-significant-federal-funding/>.

² United States Senate Committee on Appropriations, "Senate Approves Bipartisan Funding Package in Overwhelming 75-22 Vote," March 8, 2024, <https://www.appropriations.senate.gov/news/majority/senate-approves-bipartisan-funding-package-in-overwhelming-75-22-vote>; Cape and Islands, "Biden signs bill for \$350 million toward new Cape Cod bridges," Jennette Barnes, March 13, 2024, <https://www.capeandislands.org/local-news/2024-03-13/biden-signs-bill-for-350-million-toward-new-cape-cod-bridges>.

³ Cape Cod Times, "Sagamore, Bourne bridges have brought prosperity, loyalty and now worries to Cape Cod," Asad Jung, May 27, 2022, <https://www.capecodtimes.com/story/news/2022/05/27/cape-cod-canal-bridges-brought-prosperity-loyalty-worries/9688301002/>.

⁴ *Id.*; WGBH, "Federal funding for Cape Cod bridges project denied a second time," Bob Seay, January 5, 2023, <https://www.wgbh.org/news/local/2023-01-05/federal-funding-for-cape-cod-bridges-project-denied-a-second-time>; Letter from Barnstable County Board of Regional Commissioners to Senator Elizabeth Warren, September 6, 2023, <https://www.warren.senate.gov/download/letter-from-barnstable-county-board-of-regional-commissioners-9623>.

deficiencies that present an ongoing risk to the accessibility and economic stability of the Cape Cod region.

As we described in our November 21, 2023 letter in support of the joint application,⁵ the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, USACE, and other stakeholders have worked for years with the U.S. Department of Transportation to develop a comprehensive, multimodal plan for replacing both the Bourne and Sagamore Bridges and associated highway approaches. The rigorous “phased approach” developed by the Commonwealth under the administration of Governor Maura Healey and Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll will commence with the replacement of the Sagamore Bridge.⁶ This is the most efficient and cost-effective way to maintain the safety and economic vitality of the Cape Cod crossing, deliver good-paying union construction jobs, and create more sustainable transit options. In line with this phased approach, the Commonwealth’s BIP application focuses on the replacement of the Sagamore Bridge.

The total cost for replacing the Sagamore Bridge is \$2.14 billion.⁷ In December 2023, the U.S. Department of Transportation awarded this project a \$372 million Mega grant.⁸ The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has committed \$700 million in state funding without any further legislative authorization required.⁹ Most recently, on March 9, 2024, President Biden signed into law an appropriations package that included \$350 million in funding for the Cape Cod Bridges.¹⁰ Congress’s inclusion of these funds in the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2024 is consistent with President Biden’s Fiscal Year 2024 budget to provide \$350 million towards a minimum total commitment of \$600 million,¹¹ which President Biden reaffirmed in his Fiscal Year 2025 budget.¹² Outside of these additional funds in the President’s budget, the \$1.072 billion grant from the Bridge Investment Program is the only federal funding source that remains pending.¹³ It will unlock the Commonwealth’s ability to carry out this project for the good of Massachusetts and the entire Northeast region.

⁵ Letter from Massachusetts Delegation to Secretary Buttigieg, November 21, 2023, on file with Senator Warren.

⁶ Boston 25 News, “Healey says ‘phased approach’ needed to secure funding for Cape bridges, starting with Sagamore,” Timothy Nazzaro, August 14, 2023, <https://www.boston25news.com/news/local/barnstable-county/healey-says-phased-approach-needed-secure-funding-cape-bridges-starting-with-sagamore/RIZ6F4K5VVB6RKNHSV7S7NSLUQ/>.

⁷ Letter from Massachusetts Delegation to Secretary Buttigieg, November 21, 2023, on file with Senator Warren.

⁸ Cape Cod Commission, “Cape Cod Bridges Program receives significant federal funding,” December 21, 2023, <https://www.capecodcommission.org/about-us/newsroom/cape-cod-bridges-program-receives-significant-federal-funding/>.

⁹ Letter from Massachusetts Delegation to Secretary Buttigieg, November 21, 2023, on file with Senator Warren.

¹⁰ United States Senate Committee on Appropriations, “Senate Approves Bipartisan Funding Package in Overwhelming 75-22 Vote,” March 8, 2024, <https://www.appropriations.senate.gov/news/majority/senate-approves-bipartisan-funding-package-in-overwhelming-75-22-vote>; NBC News, “Biden signs major government funding bill just in time to prevent a shutdown,” Kate Santaliz and Sahil Kapur, March 8, 2024, <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/congress/senate-inches-vote-government-funding-bill-fears-brief-shutdown-rcna142255>.

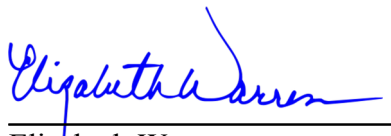
¹¹ Office of Management and Budget, Budget of the U.S. Government, Fiscal Year 2024, March 9, 2023, p. 119, <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/BUDGET-2024-BUD/pdf/BUDGET-2024-BUD.pdf>.

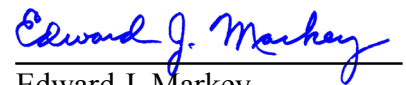
¹² US Army Corps of Engineers, “Statement by Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works on the President’s Fiscal Year 2025 Budget,” March 11, 2024, <https://www.usace.army.mil/Media/News-Releases/News-Release-Article-View/Article/3703204/statement-by-assistant-secretary-of-the-army-for-civil-works-on-the-presidents/>.

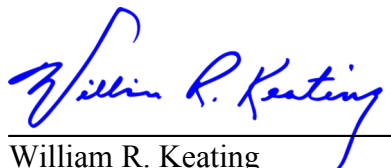
¹³ Letter from Massachusetts Delegation to Secretary Buttigieg, November 21, 2023, on file with Senator Warren.


We worked hard to pass President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to provide historic opportunities to fund critical infrastructure projects across the United States. Rebuilding the Cape Cod bridges is a prototypical project that the Law was designed to fund. We are proud to reaffirm our support for the Commonwealth's application for funding, and we appreciate your fair and full consideration of the project.

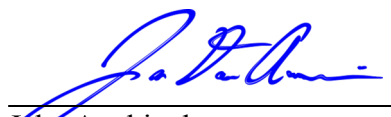
Sincerely,

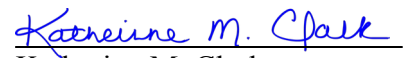

Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



William R. Keating
Member of Congress


Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress


Jake Auchincloss
Member of Congress

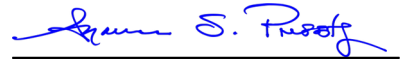

Katherine M. Clark
Member of Congress


Stephen F. Lynch
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James P. McGovern
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Seth Moulton
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Ayanna Pressley
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Lori Trahan
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